



**"But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars."**  
**- Martin Luther King, Jr.**

### From the Principal

Happy New Year! What a great feeling to have 2020 behind us and some good news on the horizon as we start 2021. I hope everyone has had a good start to second semester and regardless of whether you are participating at home or in-person, you have all settled into a new school routine. While the improvement in the COVID-19 data is less than desired and the rollout of the vaccine in St. Louis County has been slower than expected, I am hopeful that we will begin to move toward a return to normalcy in the coming months. I have been asked many times what I believe the fall return to school will look like and my standard response is that it will likely look more "normal" than the fall of 2020 but not as "normal" as the fall of 2019. I am confident that if we continue to do all the right things (wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing) we will get through this challenge soon.

As we start the second semester, we also begin to plan for next year. Course registration will begin in the month of February. We are finalizing the Program of Studies for the 2021-22 school year and we will be sharing it with registration information in the next few weeks. This year, instead of conducting in-person registration meetings and carrying registration forms from teacher to teacher for signatures, we will be moving the process online. This change will allow us to streamline our registration process and reduce contact points for COVID-19 exposure. Unfortunately, we will not be able to host our 8th Grade Curriculum Night in-person this year but we will be posting presentations from each department on the CHS website that provide an overview of the curriculum and course sequences in each discipline. Keep watching your inbox for more information soon.

It is hard to believe that in less than four months we will say goodbye to our seniors. I know many of you are wondering about graduation plans. It has been a challenging eleven months and we want to make sure our seniors have a proper graduation ceremony. Our plan is to host an in-person graduation ceremony. Currently, we have a contract with Chaifetz Arena (SLU campus) for **Thursday, May 27**. The venue is large enough for us to socially distance the crowd and the graduates. We will require masks and it will be a ticketed, socially distanced event. This event is contingent upon approval from St. Louis City, St. Louis University and the District. We are also in discussions with other venues including the Powerplex (old St. Louis Mills) site where we hosted graduation last year. This provides an outdoor option and it was well received last year. Regardless of venue our plan is to keep the ceremony on Thursday, May 27. More information for seniors is included below. We will keep everyone posted as we finalize plans.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

### Senior Class Information

**Graduation** - Currently scheduled for **Thursday, May 27 at Chaifetz Arena** (SLU campus). It will be socially distanced and likely, a ticketed event. Please note that this event is entirely contingent on approval from St. Louis City, St. Louis County, SLU and the District. If any of these groups do not give approval, we will enact an alternate plan. If we have to enact an alternative plan we will make every effort to keep the date set for Thursday, May 27.

**Diplomas** - A postcard was mailed to all senior student households confirming your student's name for their diploma. Please look for this and [email Terril Halsey](mailto:email.Terril.Halsey) at if you have any changes to the card.

**Cap & Gowns** - Last week, seniors received a Google Form via their CHS email asking for their height and weight which is necessary to order their cap and gown. Please remind your student to check their email and complete the form. Caps and gowns are provided by CHS at no cost to families. If students need the form resent, please ask them to [email Terril Halsey](mailto:email.Terril.Halsey).

### School Counseling Week 2021

**School Counseling Week** will be celebrated February 1-5, to focus public attention on school counselors' unique contributions.

We are very fortunate to have outstanding school counselors and support staff in our Guidance Department who continually go above and beyond working with our students.

Thank you to our counselors **Carolyn Blair, Joyce Bell, Jacelyn Cole, Homer Turner, Mary Modzelewski** and **Tobie Smith**. And to their support staff **Fay Orr, Lois Stiegemeier** and **Jill Cowin**.

### March 3: PSAT & SAT (Remote B-Day)

CHS 10th- and 11th grade students will not attend class on Wednesday, Mar. 3 as they will be taking either the PSAT or SAT in the building. Please be on the lookout for more details from Dr. Regina Moore, Assistant Principal.

### From the CHS Library

The CHS Library now has Family Conversation Kits available for parents and students to check out.

These kits include books and materials on the following topics: stress and anxiety, gender identity and supporting teens in transition, understanding grief and dealing with the death of a loved one, and beginning activism for teens and families.

The kits are available for check out through the CHS Library or by contacting your student's CHS counselor.

### Celebrating our Students

#### United States Presidential Scholars Program

Congratulations to the following students on their selection as candidates for this program. Students are chosen for outstanding performance on the ACT or SAT assessment tests.

- Koray S. Akduman
- Luka S. Bassnett
- Rami Helmy
- Grace N. Homann
- Siddhi Narayan
- Saida C. Robles-Razzaq
- Regan E. Wade

#### Band and Orchestra

St. Louis High School All-Suburban Bands and Orchestras - congratulations to the following students on being selected for these. It's a great accomplishment and CHS is honored to celebrate them.

##### Orchestra

- Katie De La Paz, violin
- Madeliene Foersterling, violin
- Adrien Hartman, violin
- Esther Wang, violin
- David Liang, viola
- Dylan Beauchamp, viola

##### Concert Band

- Rachel Chung, Flute
- Jonah Feinstein, Clarinet
- Bek Handzic-Smith, Clarinet
- Anand Mysorekar, Trumpet
- Stuart Whitmer, French Horn alternate
- Thomas Gustafson, Trombone
- Remy Lindsay, Tuba alternate
- Asher Gunn, Percussion
- Enoch Lai, Percussion
- Shreyas Vedantham, Percussion
- Beacan Mottl, Percussion alternate
- Scott McCary, Percussion alternate
- Ben Michelman, Percussion

##### Jazz Band

- Reed Gunn, Tenor Sax
- Thomas Gustafson, Trombone
- Asher Gunn, Drum Set

#### 2021 Missouri All-State Orchestra

Congratulations to the following students on their acceptance. This is a great honor and we celebrate the work they put in to achieve this accomplishment.

- Daboh Ahn, violin
- Katie De La Paz, violin
- Annie Ruan, violin
- Hannah Moon, viola
- Ethan Sturmowski, viola
- Delia Zacks, viola

#### Sports

Congratulations to Terrance Smith Jr. on signing his National Letter of Intent to attend Quincy University and play football. We wish him great success!

### Celebrating our Staff

**Daniel Henderson, CHS Director of Orchestras**, was recently named the 2020 Missouri American String Teachers Association Outstanding Secondary Educator of the year for the 2020-2021 school year. This award will be presented to Daniel at the Missouri American String Teachers Association virtual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 30.

### CHS Alumni in the News

2020 CHS Graduate **Lailah Hall** had the opportunity this past fall to participate in the annual Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, on one of two teams from the St. Louis area.

Lailah and Anthony McDonald competed with their venture QuickFarm, an app that offers healthy and affordable options to predominantly Black and Brown people who live in food deserts.

To get involved with Lailah and Anthony, send an email to [QuickFarmStl@gmail.com](mailto:QuickFarmStl@gmail.com).

Information about the competition can be found this article: [The St. Louis American](http://The St. Louis American).

### Sophomore & Junior Student Volunteer Opportunities

The **Red Cross** program called **Leaders Save Lives** is geared towards an opportunity for individual students. A student leader has the ability to host their own drive off campus, independent from CHS. In doing so, they can earn volunteer hours, be entered to win scholarship money towards their education or earn other great rewards. Plus, it's a great opportunity for leadership experience.

The drives are hosted at a location provided by the Red Cross, so no need to worry about COVID-19 safety on campus. The student does help out at the drive (check-in table, canteen, etc.) but their main responsibility will be recruiting donors in the weeks leading up to the event. The Red Cross provides the staff, location and additional volunteers if needed.

[For more information, please see this Red Cross Flyer.](#)

### Information from District...

**Substitute Teachers** - The School District of Clayton is always seeking high-quality applicants for substitute teachers. If you or someone you know are interested in substitute teaching in our schools, please submit an application on our website. For more information, watch this [video](#) and review this [substitute flyer](#) with our 2020-2021 rates of pay.

**Daily Health Checks** - Parents and guardians are some of our most important partners in keeping students and teachers safe and healthy. Our first line of defense in preventing the spread of coronavirus is performing a wellness check every morning before leaving your house. First, take your child's temperature. If it's higher than 100.4° degrees they should stay home. If their temperature is normal, ask if they are experiencing any of these symptoms even if you haven't noticed any:

- A new cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Unusual headaches
- Loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- New congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

If your child has been in close contact with a known positive COVID-19 case within the past 14 days, they must stay home and you need to notify their school. If your child is staying home because they're experiencing symptoms, you also need to contact their school to notify them of their absence and that the child is experiencing symptoms.

**COVID-19: What To Do When** - Many parents, students and staff have questions about what to do when they learn they are connected in some way to a positive case of COVID-19, whether it's at school, at work or at home. The District has [developed this helpful guide](#) to help understand what you should do when you, your family or a classmate/coworker are exposed or around someone who tested positive for COVID-19. The three most important things to keep in mind:

- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms.
- Stay home if you have been exposed to (or live with) someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Stay home if someone in your home has symptoms **AND** is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test.

**PAC.ED's Inclusive Schools Week Contest** - All contest deadlines and award nominations have been **extended to Friday, Feb. 19**. A date for the awards ceremony date will be set soon. Click the links below to learn more about the Inclusion Awards and for contest submissions.

- [Inclusion Awards](#)
- [Poster Contests](#)
- [Essay Contests](#)

